

1 **Regular Meeting**  
2 **Minutes for June 20, 2005**

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4 *A Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New*  
5 *Jersey, was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex, commencing at 7:32pm*  
6

7 **Council Present:** Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilwoman Dwarica,  
8 Councilwoman Heveran, Councilwoman Mitrani, Councilman  
9 LaBianco, Council President Ryan,  
10

11 **Council Absent:** Councilman Puzzo  
12

13 **Also Present:** Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, David Russo, Borough Attorney,  
14 Borough Administrator, Victoria Miragliotta, CFO Myrna Becker,  
15 Bill Schroeder, Borough Auditor  
16

17 Mayor Laurence Cherchi called the meeting to order.  
18

19 Mayor Laurence Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Council President Ryan led in  
20 the Pledge of Allegiance.  
21

22 **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**  
23

24 Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by Notice placed on the Bulletin  
25 Board at Borough Hall and notices sent to the Official Newspaper.  
26

27 **PRESENTATION**  
28

29 Mayor Cherchi, on behalf of the Governing Body, presented Lillian Walsh with a  
30 proclamation and flowers for her retirement.  
31

32 **MUNICIPAL BUDGET**  
33

34 **Resolution 05-163 Amendment to Municipal Budget**

35 Councilwoman Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan to approve Resolution 05-163  
36 amending the Municipal Budget, made a motion. The Borough Administrator gave a  
37 review of the amendment. Councilman LaBianco asked how much was the budget  
38 increased. The Borough Administrator reported that the amendment is for \$5,000.  
39 Roll call vote: Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan voted yes.  
40 Councilman Puzzo voted yes by telephone. Resolution 05-163 approved.  
41

42 **Public Hearing on Municipal Budget**

43 Leah Rolands 186 Crescent Avenue questioned legal fees in the Budget. The Borough  
44 Administrator answered Ms. Rolands question.  
45  
46

47 **Resolution 05-164 Adoption of Municipal Budget**

48 Councilwoman Mitrani, made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Dwarica, to  
49 introduce Resolution 05-164 adopting the 2005 Municipal Budget. The CFO Myrna  
50 Becker explained the Budget increase over the previous year. Discussion followed. Roll  
51 call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, Mitrani, Ryan voted yes, Councilman Puzzo  
52 voted yes by telephone. Councilman LaBianco stated he could not vote for the budget,  
53 therefore he voted no. The 2005 Municipal Budget adopted.  
54 The Borough Clerk read the statement prepared by Councilman Puzzo  
55

56 **APPOINTMENTS**

57 Mayor Cherchi appointed Robert Baron as Alternate I to expire 2006 to the Planning  
58 Board.  
59

60 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

61  
62 **Special Meeting/ Work Session – May 9, 2005** - Councilwoman Mitrani, seconded by  
63 Councilwoman Dwarica, made a motion to approve the minutes of May 9, 2005. Roll call  
64 vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, Mitrani, and Ryan voted yes. Councilman  
65 LaBianco abstained. Minutes Adopted.  
66 Closed Session – May 9, 2005 Held to closed session.  
67

68 **Regular Council Meeting – May 16, 2005** – Councilwoman Dwarica, made a motion,  
69 seconded by Councilwoman Heveran to approve the minutes of May 16, 2005. Roll call  
70 vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan voted yes. Councilman  
71 Puzzo was absent. Minutes approved.  
72

73 **Closed Session – May 16, 2005** – Councilwoman Dwarica, seconded by Councilwoman  
74 Mitrani, made a motion to approve the Closed Session minutes of May 16, 2005. Roll call  
75 vote; Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani, Ryan voted to approve the Closed Session Minutes of  
76 May 16, 2005. Councilman Puzzo was absent. Minutes approved.  
77

78 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

79  
80 Chief Dunn, Leonia Fire Department; reported that there was a fire call at the  
81 Presbyterian Church on Leonia Avenue. Due to the current condition of the street, they  
82 were unable to bring the apparatus onto the road. The Borough Administrator will contact  
83 the Borough Engineer.  
84

85 Gil Hawkins 123 Knapp Terrace – Asked the Council if the Mayor and Council were  
86 aware that Mr. Kestenbaum had passed away? Mayor Cherchi stated that the  
87 Governing Body held a moment of silence in his honor.  
88

89 Lisa Haenelt, 118 Overlook Avenue, Leonia Ambulance Corps  
90 Jim Tappen, 124 Vreeland Avenue, Leonia Ambulance Corps  
91 Lisa Heanelt read a memo to the Council with regard to the Ambulance Corps being  
92 hooked-up to the generator. (Memo included in minutes).

93  
94 **REPORTS**

95 **Standing Committees**

96 **Finance Administration & Personnel** - Councilwoman Mitrani is glad that the  
97 Budget adoption took place.

98 **Laws & Ordinances** – No report

99 **Police** - Councilman Ryan will hold his report until the July meeting.

100 Councilwoman Mitrani reported that she met with Sgt. Carlson regarding traffic  
101 issues throughout the Borough, and will continue to meet with him on weekly  
102 basis.

103 **Fire** - Councilwoman Heveran gave a report for the month of May.

104 Councilwoman Heveran also explained what other calls the Fire Department goes  
105 on.

106 **Ambulance Corps** – Councilwoman Dwarica reported that there where 68 calls  
107 for assistance for the month of May.

108 **DPW** Councilman Ryan –Reported on the Leonia Avenue reconstruction and  
109 repaving. The problem is the sub-base has been determined to be unstable. Our  
110 Community Development Funds are not at risk. Magnolia Avenue is not only  
111 going to be milled and repaved, the residents there will also be receiving new  
112 aprons and sidewalks at no cost to them or the Borough.

113 **Real Estate & Insurance** Nothing to report

114 **Borough Administrator** - The Borough Administrator reported that there are a  
115 number of insurance to be settled. The Karros case should be receiving final  
116 payment in the next 30 days. The Borough Administrator is going to be appeal  
117 the Larkin Case to the JIF, which denied. The issue with CSX, the JIF will  
118 support our going for arbitration. The plans for Magnolia Avenue are complete.  
119 The roof on the ambulance building came in under budget. All the proposals  
120 received for the Wood Park handball court are extremely high. If this project is  
121 going to move forward, we will have to go out for bids. The next project is going  
122 to be the ceiling, and carpet at the Borough Hall Annex. The Recreation  
123 Commission chose the color for the Recreation Building. The building will be  
124 power washed. The gate at the cemetery is closed. The Borough Administrator  
125 spoke with the Assessors office and they do not have a record of an easement or  
126 sewer line that we access. Mayor Cherchi explained the history of the gate. The  
127 Borough Attorney will report at the next meeting.

128 A request for the Police Arbitration Contract was received to hold the hearing  
129 until July 15, 2005.

130 **Special Bodies of the Borough** –Councilwoman Mitrani reported that the  
131 Merchants Association would like stricter enforcement of the code that requires  
132 the stores to sweep the sidewalk in front of the stores cleaner on a daily basis.

133 **Mayor** - Mayor Cherchi reported on Korean celebration he attended in Over  
134 Peck Park. Mayor Cherchi reported that the Traffic Study for Lakeview Avenue  
135 would not be scheduled until the Borough receives the report.

139 **RESOLUTIONS**

140 Councilman LaBianco questioned the renewal of liquor licenses.

141 Councilman LaBianco questioned a bill on the bill list.

142 Councilwoman Heveran asked to see Purchase order 05-01022 for Mr. Reagan.

143 Councilman Ryan questioned a CG Engineering Bill.

144 Councilperson Dwarica, made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ryan to approve  
145 Resolutions 05-165 through 05-167. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica, Heveran  
146 with the exception of purchase order 05-01022, Mitrani, Ryan voted yes. Councilman  
147 LaBianco voted no. Resolutions approved.

148  
149 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

150 **Recreation Pennants** – Mayor Cherchi would like some more information. (Hold for  
151 July 6)

152  
153 **NEW BUSINESS**

154  
155 **Red Binder at Council Meetings** – Councilwoman Heveran suggested that we do away  
156 with one of the binders. It is a waste of paper. The Council agreed.

157  
158 **Summer Council Meeting Schedule** – Councilwoman Heveran feels that we do not  
159 need three meetings a month for July and August. The Borough Administrator brought to  
160 the attention of the Governing Body the same thing occurs in September. Councilwoman  
161 Heveran seconded, by Councilwoman Mitrani made a motion, to cancel the second  
162 meetings in July, August, and September. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Dwarica,  
163 Heveran, LaBianco, Mitrani and Ryan voted yes. Motion carried.

164  
165 **CORRESPONDENCE**

166  
167 A discussion was held regarding when correspondence would be discussed.

168  
169 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

170  
171 No one spoke

172  
173 **CLOSED SESSION (Resolution P)**

174  
175 Councilwoman Dwarica, made a motion, seconded, by Councilman Ryan to go into  
176 Closed Session to discuss the Closed Session Minutes of May 6; Resolution 05-162  
177 Authorizing payment of the legal bill for Mr. Peter Till, Esq.; Venezia Tort Claim update.  
178 All in favor none opposed.

179  
180 Councilwoman Dwarica, seconded by Councilman Ryan, made a motion to adjourn the  
181 meeting. All in favor, none opposed

182  
183 As there was no further business before the Governing Body, the meeting adjourned at  
184 9:20pm

185  
186  
187  
188  
189  
190 Respectfully submitted,  
191  
192  
193 Fran Lehmann  
194 Borough Clerk  
195